

AP 20177-1538

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Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Shultz,

I have taken the liberty of sending you a copy of a letter
I have sent to the President of the United States on a matter
of great concern to me.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

D.M. Brown

11/13/55

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[illegible]

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan,

It is with intense heartbreak that I read in the August 1982 issue of the Department of State BULLETIN "the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish Government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

Years ago, when I volunteered and fought as a U.S. infantryman, I did so not only to defend my native land, but also to help eradicate from this earth the Nazi menace, the contemporary architects of government-sanctioned mass murder. As an Armenian-American, I knew very well the tragic and ubiquitous effects of genocide, especially when planned and executed as an instrument of national policy. I had grown up without having the opportunity to know and love my paternal grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, since they all perished ignominiously during the genocide of the Armenian people. Only a single member of my father's entire family escaped the massive killings, torture, and deportations: this elderly aunt, whom we located 20 years later. Still lives and bears living testimony to what I write.

If my litany were unique, be assured I would not impose upon your time and kindness. But please appreciate that in over 50 years I have yet to meet an Armenian anywhere in the world whose family was not similarly affected by the actions of the Turkish Government before, during, and after 1915. Not one! Knowing this, and extrapolating in an objective way, what reasonable person, or group, or nation can deny that a genocide did take place? Consequently, I must consider the stance of the Department of State -- that the Armenian Genocide is merely an allegation -- to be totally unacceptable, and a visceral affront to me, my father's family, and my ancestral people.

Mr. President, my battle campaign stars, my combat infantryman badge, and my purple heart medal have been made heavy by this cavalier attitude of the Department of State. I beseech you to investigate this matter, and to determine whether the Turkish Government, through premeditated policy, truly committed a genocide of the Armenian people, or alternatively, whether numerous tales and accounts painfully recounted to Armenian children over three generations by parents, teachers, and clergy, and documented in hundreds of stories, poems, tapes, and even in U.S. history books, are merely

NOV 27 1962
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Following each murder of a Turkish official by Armenian terrorists, the American press will casually refer to the "massacre of Armenians by Turks in 1915." It is appalling to see how successfully the facts have been obliterated by decade after decade of bombardment by this allegation. Indisputably many Armenians did perish during the wartime relocation (of disloyal groups) ordered by Ottoman authorities, but the major killers of 1915 were nomadic Kurds and infectious disease epidemics.

Armenian-Kurdish friction had been building since 1909, and the killings attained major proportions by 1913. Three simultaneous enemy invasions precluded adequate escort of the vulnerable 1915 relocation convoys by the army, unfortunate since the humanity shown by Turkish troops at Gallipoli was what was needed, and responsibility fell to the gendarmerie who proved unreliable (or worse). Armenians who lived outside Kurdish regions were either largely "unmolested" in 1915, as in Constantinople and Smyrna, or "only...reduced by sickness and exhaustion" as for convoys from Cilicia, to use Toynbee's words. Tragically, among the diseases sweeping warworn Turkey was a typhus epidemic of extreme virulence, and the helplessness of the authorities is revealed by case fatality rates of up to 75% within army units.

Scholars who are neither Turkish nor Armenian want nothing to do with the intense emotions involved with 1915, with rare exceptions such as the 1973 exposure as forgeries of the documents purporting to prove premeditation. Fortunately there is a study, Dyer's 1976 paper in Middle Eastern Studies, which does give an impartial insight into the "deafening drumbeat of PROPAGANDA" which still reigns triumphant.

After each murder Turkey sees the Western press, not express outrage and demand preventive measures, but rather oblige the terrorists by regurgitating this insulting propaganda. Turkey may be accustomed to lack of journalistic equity, but this must be especially infuriating. Turkey's traditional reaction to bias by the West, as discussed by Toynbee (in a 1922 book avoided by propagandists since he admitted anti-Turkish prejudice in his earlier writings about 1915, conceded the likelihood of provocations, etc.; to America's shame even Morgenthau, who incidentally relied on an Armenian interpreter, stooped to slurs), has been to "retire into itself," which could translate into a gradual ESTRANGEMENT from the north Atlantic alliance.

In fact the terrorism is so irrational as related to 1915 events (victims not born in 1915, ties with Kurdish separatists, etc.) as to invite questions about whether such an estrangement may be the real goal rather than merely a byproduct. The 1965 Soviet shift (e.g. book ban lifted) on the Turkish-Armenian issue was similar to a 1912 volte-face which, interestingly, included Russian agents stirring up trouble in Anatolia (another uncongenial facet to 1915 avoided by propagandists). Surely it is in AMERICA'S INTERESTS to expose whomever may be stirring up the trouble now.

Sincerely yours

Ref.: Toynbee, "Treatment of..." 467, 649, 650; "Western Question..." 276, 345, 353, 382; Am. Hist. Rev. 53:483, 489, 499; Midd. East. Stud. 9:378, 382; Mod. Rec. 66:510; Zeit. f. Hyg. Inf. 89:396; Midd. East J. 22:516; Miss. Val. Hist. Rev. 48:254. cc: D. Chavsteen